



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Date:

**To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
c/o State Fire Training
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**From: Bret A Davidson
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Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Recognition of Fire Instructor 1A & Fire Instructor 1B for Inclusion for Instructors for State Fire Training.

Recommended Actions:

It is respectfully recommended that Fire Instructor 1A and Fire Instructor 1B be accepted as well as Training Instructor 1A, 1B and 1C as acceptable for instructors seeking to be qualified to teach courses for State Fire Training.

Background Information:

In January 2011 State Fire Training made a policy decision to no longer allow applicants seeking to become instructors to meet the requirements unless they have taken the new Fire Training Instructor series.

Most fire service personnel take the instructor series as part of the fire officer certification program in the first 5 to 10 years of their careers. It has always taught them how to write technical lesson plans and manipulative lesson plans. Now this group in the fire service has 10 years or less to go and are desiring to teach their experience. With the change they they are currently required to retake three new instructor courses (120hrs), Regional Instructor Orientation(8hrs) and Ethics(8hrs).

The new instructor series pushes these skills out and begins with taking preexisting lesson plans and teaching how to best implement and use these lessons. The skills taught by the

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two older courses are still sufficient for instructor training in content and valid. The college system still recognizes them in the state to qualify community college instructors to teach.

The instructor rollouts for the new state format are being taught and once completed be rolled into the Regional Instructor Orientation class (RIO) and still touch all new instructors. They will still have to take the Ethics class. If approved what this prevents is a person who has already taken Fire Instructor 1A, 1B from having to take an additional 120 hours of instruction and have almost 80 hours be very similar to what they have already taken and then 40 hours of more elementary new training about lesson plans they have already been using for years at this point in their careers.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

It seems that the best solution would be to allow either Fire Instructor 1A, 1B or the Training Instructor series to be sufficient to qualify instructors. The Fire Instructor 1A, 1B series is no longer being taught and in a matter of years will phase itself out as the only available classes taught in order to qualify will be the new courses. It does not make sense to go through the expense or the time to make personnel retake three classes when they have met the NFPA instructor requirements under the old curriculum and exceed the community college and National Fire Academy (NFA) requirements for fire instructor.